



“Bloomington Police – Thank you for the great time at the Cops and Kids Baseball Clinic. My child, an autistic 10-year-old, was so thrilled with the entire day and everyone’s help, advice and participation. You guys and gals are great! We appreciate all of you for your community support of kids and your constant protection.”
Kim, resident



Baseball legend Kent Hrbek takes a break to sign autographs for a young fan.

BLOOMINGTON YESTERDAY SEPTEMBER 1955



LOCAL BUSINESS LEADERS WATCHED AS the new Metropolitan Stadium began to take shape in the fall of 1955. Groundbreaking ceremonies were held June 20, 1955, for the stadium, which was built on a 50-acre vegetable farm east of Cedar Avenue. Completed in April 1956, the stadium opened to a record crowd of 18,366 for the triple-A Minneapolis Millers vs. Wichita baseball game. Newspapers called the opening “The Miracle of 78th Street.” The owner of the New York Giants (parent team of the Millers) was quoted as saying that Met Stadium was “the finest minor league park in the country, and there are not two in the majors that are better.” The cost to build the stadium in 1955: \$8.5 million.
Minnesota Historical Society

CLARIFICATION

Historical information regarding the Minnesota Valley Country Club that appeared in the April Bloomington Yesterday came from *Minnesota Valley Country Club From Farms to Fairways: A Narrative History 1923 -1991*, a book written by longtime Bloomington resident Laraine Tracy.

BUILDING COMMUNITY COPS AND KIDS BASEBALL CLINIC IS A HIT

IT WAS A WIN-WIN SITUATION FOR Bloomington Police and the more than 100 youth who participated in the Cops and Kids Baseball Clinic held at Kent Hrbek Field last spring. Police officers, community service officers and administrative staff volunteered to teach various baseball skills, including hitting, fielding and throwing, to 7- to 10-year-old boys and girls.

“This was a wonderful outreach to young kids who typically do not see the police unless there is something wrong,” said Commander Jeff Potts.

The inspiration for the program came from Officer Aaron Paul who has also been a baseball coach at Jefferson High School for the last 10 years. Paul said the clinic is a good way for police to establish a positive relationship with kids and to build connections with many different groups and businesses in the community.

Some top names in baseball lent their expertise to the clinic, including former Minnesota Twin Kent Hrbek,



representatives from the Twins Youth Clinic and the Saint Paul Saints, Minnesota Gopher baseball players and Twins’ mascot, T.C. Bear.

Funded through donations, the baseball clinic is a team effort between the Police Department, Parks and Recreation, Bloomington Crime Prevention, Bloomington Athletic Association and community businesses. Kids were asked to bring canned food donations to the free clinic; 77 pounds of food were collected for VEAP. Another baseball clinic will be held in spring 2006. For more information, call 952-563-4900.

2005 ELEVEN WHO CARE AWARD RECIPIENTS TWO BLOOMINGTON RESIDENTS SELECTED

BLOOMINGTON RESIDENTS MEL Kirkpatrick and Flora Tsukayama are two of KARE-11’s Eleven Who Care Award recipients for 2005. The award recognizes the outstanding contributions of 11 grass-roots volunteers.

MEL KIRKPATRICK

For the last 47 years, Mel Kirkpatrick has helped bring culture to the community as an actor, volunteer and a current board member of Bloomington Civic Theatre (BCT).

In 1955, BCT began with a \$30 loan from the City’s Parks and Recreation Division. After two plays, BCT was able to repay the loan, but it was a production of “Guys and Dolls” in 1960 that put them on the map.

“The theater critic of the *Star and Tribune* headlined the review with ‘As

Recipients, who were chosen out of 325 nominations submitted by individuals and service organizations, receive an \$1,100 donation to the non-profit organization of their choice. The award winners will be honored during a live telecast on Wednesday, September 7,

Good as Broadway’ and people came in droves to see the play,” said Kirkpatrick. “The shows have been wonderful over the years and have received an enormous public response. That’s why Bloomington Civic Theatre is still around today.”

Kirkpatrick is also a host, researcher and writer of “The Time of Our Lives,” a program aimed at senior citizens that airs on Bloomington Educational Cable Television.

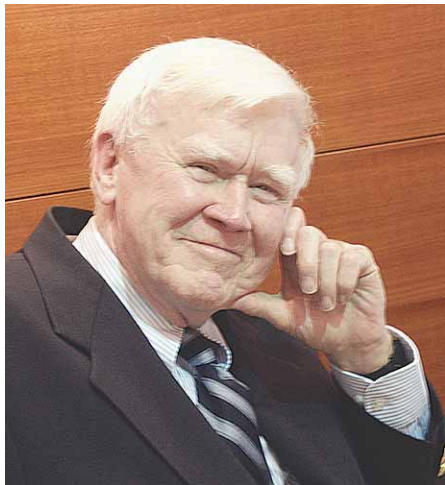
FLORA TSUKAYAMA

Flora Tsukayama is committed to community leadership and has a passion for promoting diversity. Tsukayama has been a School Watch Volunteer with Bloomington Public Schools since 1994. Everyday she visits Jefferson High School to provide an adult presence.

“In addition to security, students need an adult to talk to from time to time,” Tsukayama said. “Being in the schools helps me connect with the students. We get a chance to

at 9 p.m. on KARE 11. For more information, call 763-546-1111.

Would you would like to start your own tradition of dedication and volunteering leadership to your community? Visit www.ci.bloomington.mn.us, keyword: Volunteer.



brainstorm to help make the environment better for all.”

Tsukayama is also a board member on the Bloomington Human Rights Commission; a student mentor and tutor; a facilitator for Seeking Education Equity and Diversity, a national program to teach diversity to adults and high school students; and a board member and translator with the Bloomington Sister City Organization, which provides cultural exchange programs with Izumi City, Japan.